

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2005. The Examiner's Office Action was in response to the Applicant's Appeal and Brief previously submitted.

In brief, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims, namely claims 1, 10 and 13, and in order to overcome the collections of prior art references cited. In sum, claims 1, 10 and 13 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, and 14-17 canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 13 remain pending.

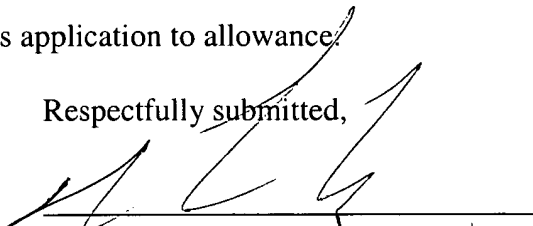
A key distinguishing feature of the present design, as now set forth in each of amended independent claims 1, 10 and 13, is the construction of the three-dimensional shaped body to include a substantially elliptical configuration, in cross section, this in order to establish an article exhibiting the necessary stability characteristics for supporting one or more individuals in buoyant fashion upon a body of water. As previously recited, each of the independent claims further include a solid inner core (such as again being a solid foamable material), and about which the outer shell of material is formed, i.e. such as further being a polyester or urethane based gel coat.

Neither Gentile (3,182,340) nor Simon (3,814,439) teach or suggest a three-dimensional and cross-sectional elliptical configured and user buoyant supportable article, as prominently recited in each of the amended independent claims. Rather, Gentile teaches a float article including an inner (and interiorly hollowed) basket shape 32, about which is disposed a buoyant float body 12. Simon further teaches a portable device settable within a pool or the like and upon which a user chips golf balls.

None of the deficiencies noted in regards to the references discussed above, and again as specifically directed to the elliptical cross-sectional and three-dimensional shaping of the present article, are further shown in Abeille (4,825,798) or Holden (3,327,686). Further distinguishing features, such as the application of the nonskid upper surface, have also been introduced into the independent claims.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims, at last, are now in appropriate form for allowance and favorable action is requested. Attorney for Applicant may be contacted at (248) 647-6000 with any questions the Examiner may have and would welcome a call to discuss whatever action may be required to pass this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reply to Office Action of November 8, 2005

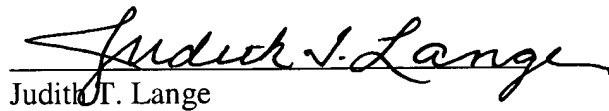


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Judith T. Lange